Title: Preliminary documentation of building dipinti from the Temple of Tuthmosis III (2010/2011 season)

Author(s): Dawid F. Wieczorek

Journal: Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean 23/1 (Research 2011)

Year: 2014

Pages: 221–228

ISSN 1234–5415 (Print), ISSN 2083–537X (Online)

Publishers: Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (PCMA UW), Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (WUW)

www.pcma.uw.edu.pl - www.wuw.pl

PRELIMINARY DOCUMENTATION OF BUILDING DIPINTI FROM THE TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III (2010/2011 SEASON)

Dawid F. Wieczorek
Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw

Abstract: Documentation of building dipinti from the Temple of Tuthmosis III in Deir el-Bahari, excavated more than 30 years ago by a Polish team from the PCMA UW, was aimed at identifying marks observed on the exposed blocks from the undisturbed temple structure. The most representative examples of dipinti types — six with subdivisions based on preliminary classification of the recorded epigraphic material — were selected for contextual, photographic and drawing recording. Altogether 222 building dipinti were identified on 167 of the examined limestone and sandstone blocks originally belonging to the structure. The research is carried out as part of the PCMA egyptological and conservation projects on the two temples, of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III, in Deir el-Bahari.

Keywords: Deir el-Bahari, Temple of Tuthmosis III, building dipinti
PRELIMINARY DOCUMENTATION OF BUILDING DIPIINTI FROM THE TEMPLE OF TUTHMOSIS III (2010/2011 SEASON)

Dawid F. Wieczorek
Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw

Abstract: Documentation of building dipinti from the Temple of Tuthmosis III in Deir el-Bahari, excavated more than 30 years ago by a Polish team from the PCMA UW, was aimed at identifying marks observed on the exposed blocks from the undisturbed temple structure. The most representative examples of dipinti types — six with subdivisions based on preliminary classification of the recorded epigraphic material — were selected for contextual, photographic and drawing recording. Altogether 222 building dipinti were identified on 167 of the examined limestone and sandstone blocks originally belonging to the structure. The research is carried out as part of the PCMA egyptological and conservation projects on the two temples, of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III, in Deir el-Bahari.

Keywords: Deir el-Bahari, Temple of Tuthmosis III, building dipinti
stone blocks, which were largely undisturbed and still in place. The most representative examples of dipinti types found in the ruins were selected for contextual, photographic and drawing recording in order to verify preliminary observations made by the excavator, Jadwiga Lipińska (1977: 21–25). Examination of the material also led to development of a concrete model for digital recording of the dipinti.

**SCOPE AND RESULTS OF THE DOCUMENTATION**

Six areas identified by J. Lipińska as containing building dipinti (Lipińska 1977: 22) [Fig. 1] were examined for the presence of blocks with such marks [see Table 1].

Of these areas, the temple platform and the artificial platform will need further work to complete the documentation process. On the temple platform (UT-TP) only a small fragment of the highest part of the limestone and sandstone blocks forming the foundation of the present preserved southeastern corner of the hypostyle hall of the temple (UT-TP, Unit 1) was examined. In the area of the artificial platform (UT-AP), identified already by J. Lipińska as a trove of blocks preserved in place, bearing

![Diagram](image-url)

*Fig. 1. Extent of the area of the temple of Tuthmosis III in Deir el-Bahari subjected to examination in the 2010/2011 season (Drawing R. Czerner, editing D.F. Wieczorek)*
building marks once concealed in the masonry (Lipińska 1977: 22) [Fig. 2], the documentation work concerned currently exposed stone blocks from the core of the artificial platform (UT-AP, Units 1–15). Time constraints caused the work to be stopped at this stage.

The total number of limestone and sandstone blocks examined in these areas stands at 441. Of these 167 were found to bear altogether 222 building dipinti on their different faces. The identified material was catalogued and marked on the plan of the temple. The location and orientation of each dipinto on the stone block were recorded, making a distinction between limestone and sandstone building material. The breakdown by area is recorded in Table 1.

Table 1. Recorded building dipinti from the different areas of the Temple of Tuthmosis III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temple platform structures</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Terrace (UT-TP)</td>
<td>(at least)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial platform remains</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Terrace (UT-AP)</td>
<td>(at least)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathor shrine</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Terrace (MT-HS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot of the ramp</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Courtyard (LC-FR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern portico</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Courtyard (LC-SP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Pavilion&quot; foundations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Courtyard (LC-PV)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 2. Remains of the artificial platform of the Upper Terrace (UT-AP, Units 1–15); view from the south, state in 2011 (Photo D.F. Wieczorek)
The recorded building dipinti were written overall in hieratic script with elements of cursive hieroglyphics or cursive itself (see Lipińska 1977: 22). The signs were written in red paint, most likely red ochre (see Wieczorek 2008: 285; 2010: 216), the brush strokes being of different thickness from 0.5 cm to 3 cm. The size of the dipinti ranged in height and width from several centimeters (10.5 x 6.5 cm, TD.142-TB.99:b in UT-AP, Unit 12) to nearly a meter (90 x 65 cm, TD.152-TB.106:b in UT-TP, Unit 13). Sign orientation on the block surfaces was highly differentiated. The signs were tilted to the right or left, “lying on one side” (right or left) and often upside down — vertical with a slight tilt either to the right or left.

Six types of building dipinti with subdivisions were identified in a preliminary classification [Fig. 4]:

I.a  Dependent-date: month-season-day
I.b  Dependent-date: month-season-day + Short note
II.a Title: pr-‘3 ‘nh(.w) wḏ3l(.w) s(nb.w)
II.b Title: jmj-r3 njw.t
III.a Sign group: rnp.t-nfr
III.b Sign group: nfr-rnp.t
III.c Sign group: nfr-rnp.wl
IV  Sign group: O39 + U6 (According to Gardiner’s List, Gardiner 1969: 438–548)
V  Single sign: U6, e.g., TD.121-TB.83:a; O1
VI  Single mark

Fig. 3. Blocks in the core of the artificial platform (Unit 4); location of building dipinti marked (Photo and processing D.F. Wieczorek)
Fig. 4. Examples of the six types of building dipinti (Facsimile drawing D.F. Wieczorek)
Field examination of the building dipinti from the Temple of Tuthmosis III confirmed many observations made during preliminary documentation work in the 1960s (Lipińska 1977: 21–25). At the same time, several mistakes were revealed and new data provided for further consideration in the research on building marks from Deir el-Bahari in general.

Building dipinti have been attested on both limestone and sandstone blocks. Marks on limestone blocks come from the core of the artificial platform (UT-AP) and the foot of the ramp (LC-FR). Marks on sandstone are for the most part from the poorly preserved remains of the Southern portico (LC-SP) and “Pavilion” (LC-PV), which were constructed solely of this building material. In both cases the marks appeared only on roughly dressed surfaces of stone blocks and on apparently all the sides with the exception of the top surface. Units 1 and 4, preserving in situ part of the core of the artificial platform, exposed the lateral faces of the stone blocks, permitting all faces of the blocks to be easily examined for the presence of building dipinti [Fig. 3]. In Units 10, 11 and 12 [see Fig. 4, bottom], close scrutiny revealed three new building marks (Tuthmosis III Dipinto=TD.109, 138 and 146) located in the top corners of blocks (Tuthmosis III Block=TB.75:a/d, 96:a/d and 103:c/d).

In most cases of recorded building marks there was one dipinto per block, but cases of two (e.g., UT-AP Unit 1: TB.4:b, B -TD.4, 5), three (e.g., UT-UP Unit 1: TB.7:a, c, B -TD.8, 9, 10) and even four (e.g., UT-AP Unit 6: TB.46:a, b, c, d -TD.65, 66, 67, 68) per block, in the latter instance on all four sides, have also been attested.

SUMMARY

Of the 222 building dipinti identified this season in the remains of the Temple of Tuthmosis III on the Lower Courtyard, Middle and Upper Terrace, 34 of the most representative examples were documented in full.

A preliminary analysis of the material revealed its clear resemblance to the inscriptional material studied by the author in the area of the Temple of Hatshepsut (see Wieczorek 2011: 208, 209) as well as to the building dipinti unearthed by the French Mission in the structures of both monarchs in Karnak (Charloux 2007a: Pl. XIX: Fig. 27; 2007b: Pl. IX: Fig. 19; Charloux, Jet 2007: Pl. XVIII: Fig. 21). Nonetheless, the repertoire of the material presently documented is noticeably characteristic of this edifice and was not recorded anywhere before. Notably, however, some similarities were recognized to marks discovered in the remnants of the mortuary temples of the immediate successors of Tuthmosis III, Amenhotep II (Bellandi, Consonni, Quirino 2010; Quirino, Negri, Sesana 2010: 298) and Tuthmosis IV (Petrie 1897: Pl. IX:13). It is too early, based on the very modest evidence coming from these structures, to establish any broader and more certain conclusions, although it seems to be very likely that the repertoire of building dipinti recognized in the Deir el-Bahari temple of Tuthmosis III is typical of the end of the Tuthmoside period. The turning point comes, I believe, in the Amarna period (see Pendlebury 1951/I: 182; II: Pl. XCIX; Lopez 1987: 245–270).
All the examined blocks, of limestone as well as of sandstone, have been dated to the reign of Tuthmosis III based on both epigraphic and archaeological evidences. There is no indication recognized so far of any reuse of stone building material.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
I would like to express here my gratitude to The Foundation for Polish Science (Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej, FNP) for financial support of the research within the frame of the START Program for 2010.

I would like to thank Dr. Monika Dolińska and Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafranski, directors of the respective Tuthmosis III and Hatshepsut Temple Projects in Deir el-Bahari, for permission to work on as yet unpublished material. Thanks are due also to Piotr Czerkwiński for assistance in the documentation process on site. Last but not least, I am grateful to Iwona Zych for correcting the English of this paper.

Dawid F. Wieczorek
Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw
00-927 Warsaw, Poland, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28
e-mail: dawidfwieczorek@wp.pl

REFERENCES

Bellandi, G., Consonni, A., Quirino, T.
2010 *Tracing of the so-called “quarry marks” at the Temple of Millions of Years of Amenhotep II – Luxor, West Thebes – CEFB – Italian Archaeological Project*, poster presentation at CRE XI – Current Research in Egyptology Conference, 5th–8th January 2010, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Charloux, G.
2007b *Une canalisation en grès du début de la XVIIIe dynastie et résultats complémentaires du chantier <<Ha>>* [in:] *Cahiers de Karnak XII/1 (=Bibliothèque générale 28)*, Paris: Éditions Recherche sur les Civilisations, 261–283

Charloux, G., Jet, J.-F.

Dolińska, M.

Gardiner, A.H.
Lansing, A.

Lipińska, J.
1977  *The Temple of Tuthmosis III. Architecture [=Deir el-Bahari 2]*, Warsaw: PWN

Naville, E.
1907  *The XIth Dynasty Temple at Deir el-Bahari I [=Memoir of the Egypt Exploration Fund 28]*, London: Egypt Exploration Fund
1910  *The XIth Dynasty Temple at Deir el-Bahari II [=Memoir of the Egypt Exploration Fund 30]*, London: Egypt Exploration Fund
1913  *The XIth Dynasty Temple at Deir el-Bahari III [=Memoir of the Egypt Exploration Fund 32]*, London: Egypt Exploration Fund

Pendlebury, J.D.S.

Petrie, W.M.F.
1897  *Six Temples at Thebes, 1896*, London: Bernard Quaritch

Quirino, T., Negri, E., Sesana, A.

Wieczorek, D.F.

Winlock, H.E.
Notebook VII *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Theban Expedition VII. XVIII Dynasty Temple Architecture*, unpubl. manuscript